

occurrence of a predetermined event and a determination that the
probabilistic mutation criteria have been met.--

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~~36~~. A computer program product according to claim ~~35~~³⁷ wherein the predetermined event is selected from a group consisting of a user-to-user copying event, operation of the product, unlocking of a product feature and a change to a predetermined operating parameter of the product.--

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~~37~~. A computer program product according to claim ~~35~~³⁷ wherein the lineage-relevant information is stored in the second portion of code as a plurality of bits, at least one of the bits having been selected at random and its state changed in response to each lineage-relevant event in the chain resulting in the product.--

REMARKS

By the present Preliminary Amendment, claims 20-22 are deleted and new claims 23-57 are added. The present Amendment also changes the title and abstract of the application to better reflect the subject matter of the claims. The specific changes to the title, claims and abstract are shown in an Appendix entitled VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE that follows the signature page of this Amendment. In this Appendix, insertions are underlined, while deletions are enclosed in brackets. Support for new claims 23-57 is found generally at pages 19-24 of the

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specification. The Applicant believes that no new matter is presented by the addition of these claims.

The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 23-57 are in condition for allowance and requests that the present application be allowed and passed to issue. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Title:

METHOD FOR [TRACKING] ADAPTING A SOFTWARE [LINEAGES] PRODUCT
TO AN ENVIRONMENT

In the Abstract:

[Software lineages arise through purchase and reproduction. Lineages are tracked by storing lineage-relevant information in variable regions of software instances and/or in a central database according to methods disclosed.] A method for adapting a software product to an environment is provided that comprises providing the software product with a first portion of code including instructions for performing a predetermined function. At least one aspect of performing the predetermined function is controllable by an operating parameter value. The operating parameter value, a mutation rate and a set of probabilistic mutation criteria are stored in a second portion of code. The method further comprises, responsive to an occurrence of a predetermined event associated with the environment, using the mutation rate and the probabilistic mutation criteria to determine if the operating parameter value should mutate, and changing the operating parameter value in response to a determination that the operating parameter value should mutate.

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In the Claims:

20. Cancelled.

21. Cancelled.

22. Cancelled.